

An Ever-Growing Professionalism

Acting in a professional manner is paramount to what we do in service to our country. Whether we are on active duty with the military or serving as a civilian employee, being professional is important to meeting the expectations of our work. Professionalism extends to our homes when our spouses care for our children and run the day-to-day household. This is true because the basic definition of the word “professional” is: One with an assured competence in a field.

Having “assured competence” means we have spent time studying the requirements of our work or position. It means we have an on-going responsibility to gain the most up to date knowledge so we can meet the needs of our customers. This is done through formal or informal training, in the classroom or in a book. No matter where our training may come from, to seek more competence in our chosen work is what it means to be a professional.

How much time do you spent in preparing yourself to be more competent in your job or role? Are you a person who strives for excellence in accomplishing your tasks? Are you a person who would be known as mediocre or are you actively striving for greater knowledge and expertise?

These are important questions for anyone in any task we have been given or have chosen for ourselves. Whether we apply these questions to our public life or private, they challenge us to consider who we are and what we are doing. During my years as chaplain of Officer Candidate School, Quantico, VA., we often talked about our training as a total package. Body, mind and spirit must be addressed in training. Preparing the body for the physical rigors our work may demand is important. Challenging our minds to think, reason, and question our environment prepares us to be leaders. Realizing our spirits must be fed by acknowledging our need for God and seeking out a deeper devotion prepares a foundation for the planned and unplanned events of life.

A focus on total training represents an active attempt to be professional. Being a professional in all we do reflects the seriousness of our endeavors and our commitment to them. Are you seeking an ever-growing professionalism in how you live your life? Doing so increases the success of all our plans and prepares us to meet the challenges of life.